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I respectfully disagree with the position taken by NAB re local programming by XM radio. First of all, I'm not sure XM's traffic/weather is local programming as it is broadcast across the US. Listening to traffic jams in NYC while residing in LA does not constitute local programming in my opinion. Second, XM would probably not exist except for the consolidation of the radio industry by a small unimaginative group of companies which then gutted any original programming and creativity from the stations that they acquired.

Traditional radio is now based on a lowest common denominator programming model with few variations. I discovered that all radio programming in the US was the same during a marathon drive along the east coast. There were the same four alternatives--all news, country, oldies, and contemporary music. Public radio was the only bright spot--jazz, classical, and (gasp!) intelligent conversation. XM and Sirius both have their shortcomings (for example reliance on traditional broadcasters such as Clear Channel for much of their non-music content) but they are the proverbial breath of fresh air when compared to traditional AM and FM broadcasting.

NAB needs to crawl back under its rock. If traditional broadcasters wish to retain their listeners they need to earn that right--not obstruct creative solutions by others. An open market works both ways--maybe traditional broadcasting will put XM and Sirius out of business with digital broadcasts and creative programming--one can only hope.